

Application No. 10/084,491
Preliminary Amendment
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 28, 2004
May 10, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Cancelled) :

Claim 2 (Currently amended) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted inside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claim 3 (Currently amended) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted outside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, wherein the protective sheath comprises two or more slide sheaths.

Claim 5 (Previously amended) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

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a pair of wings; wherein,
at least one of the two wings is coupled to the protective sheath so as to be movable with the protective sheath.

Claim 6 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the other wing of the two wings is coupled to the fixed sheath; and

the hollow needle is exposed when the two wings are aligned symmetrically, and the hollow needle is covered by the protective sheath when the two wings are slid in directions to distance the wings from one another.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:

a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular portion, the tubular portion partially covering the needle; and
a protective sheath slidably ~~fitted to~~ movable and guided by the tubular portion of the fixed sheath, between a first position where the protective sheath is housed inside of the fixed sheath and a second position where a tip of the hollow needle is

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entirely covered by the protective sheath; wherein,

the protective sheath and the tubular portion of the fixed sheath have a locking means for restricting sliding movement of the protective sheath relative to the tubular portion, ~~and the protective sheath is movable from the tubular portion of the fixed sheath to a position where the tip of the hollow needle is entirely covered.~~

Claim 8 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 7, wherein the locking means comprises a locking slot and a locking projection.

Claim 9 (Original): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

each of the fixed sheath and the protective sheath has a wing, and when the wings are aligned symmetrically, the hollow needle is exposed, and when the sheaths are slid in directions to distance the wings from one another and locked, the protective sheath covers the hollow needle entirely.

Claims 10 (Withdrawn): A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:

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a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a plurality of telescopic sheaths covering part of the
hollow needle;

a protective sheath being prevented from slipping out from
inside the telescopic sheaths, and having an elongated shape to
be inserted into a catheter for supporting the catheter at a
front end thereof; and

a flexible adapter fixed on an outer periphery of a proximal
end portion of the protective sheath; wherein,

the protective sheath covers the hollow needle entirely when
the telescopic sheaths are extended.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) : A safety indwelling syringe as set
forth in claim 10, wherein the flexible adapter is made from
rubber.

Claim 12 (New) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in
claim 7, wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the
protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being
movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an
end of the slit and stops further movement of the wing, and

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wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

Claim 13 (New) : A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:
a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular portion, the tubular portion covering the needle partly;
a protective sheath slidably fitted to and guided by the tubular portion of the fixed sheath, the protective sheath being movable relative to the tubular portion and covering the hollow needle entirely;
the fixed sheath and the protective sheath comprising locking means having a slot and a latch projection for engaging with the slot so that the locking means prevents the protective sheath from separating from the fixed sheath; and
a pair of wings, at least one of the wings being coupled to the protective sheath for pulling out the protective sheath.

Claim 14 (New) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an

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end of the slit and stops further movement of the wing, and
wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict
sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

Claim 15 (New) : A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in
claim 13, wherein the protective sheath comprises at least two
slide sheaths.